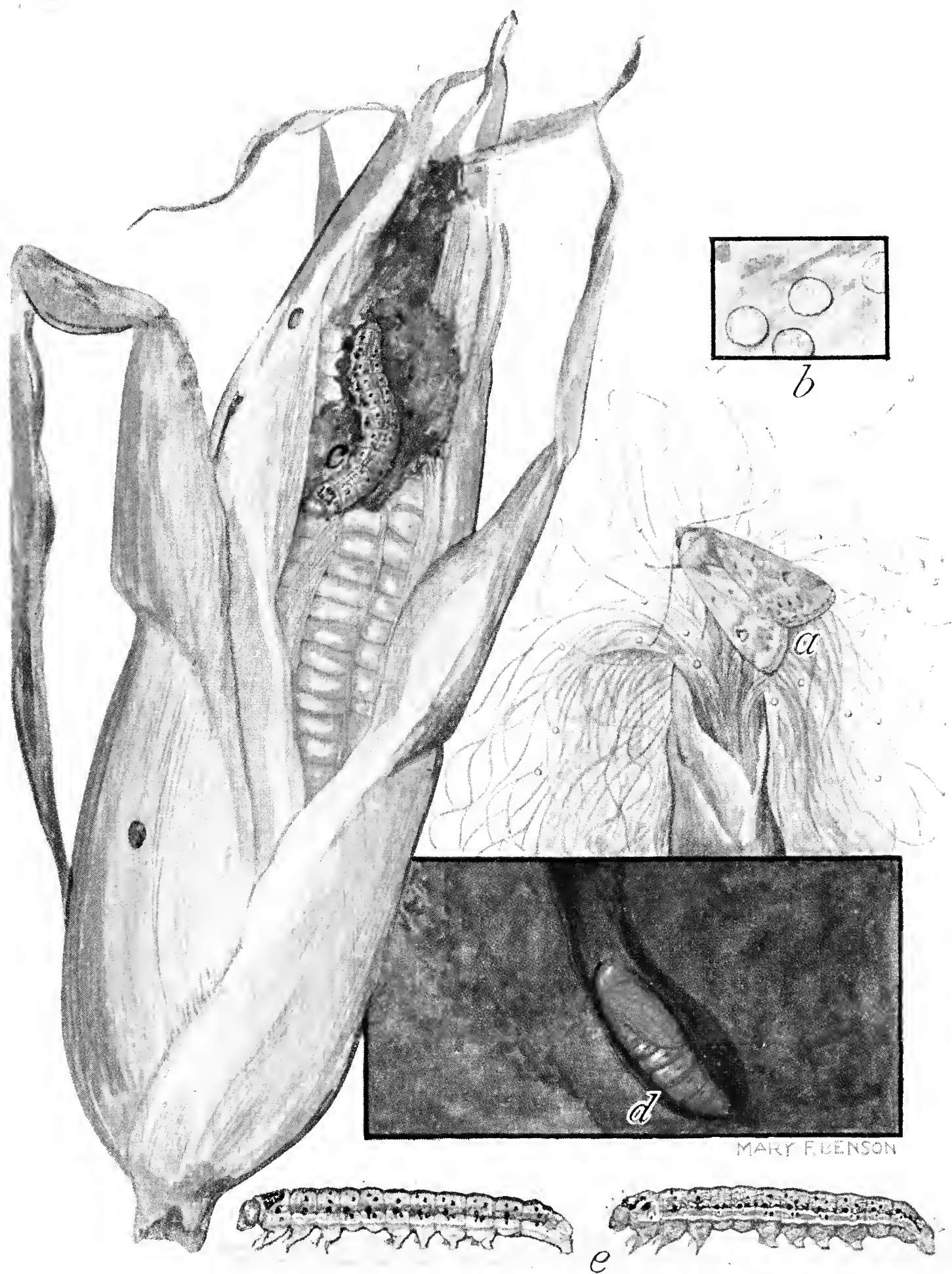


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Vol. 11

CORN EARWORM



a, Moth (or adult), and eggs on silks; *b*, eggs; *c*, earworm feeding in ear of corn; *d*, pupa in a cell; *e*, color phases of the earworm. (All except *b* about $1\frac{1}{3}$ times natural size; *b* $5\frac{1}{2}$ times natural size.)

(See other side for life history and control)

CORN EARWORM

(*Heliothis armigera* (Hbn.))

Life History

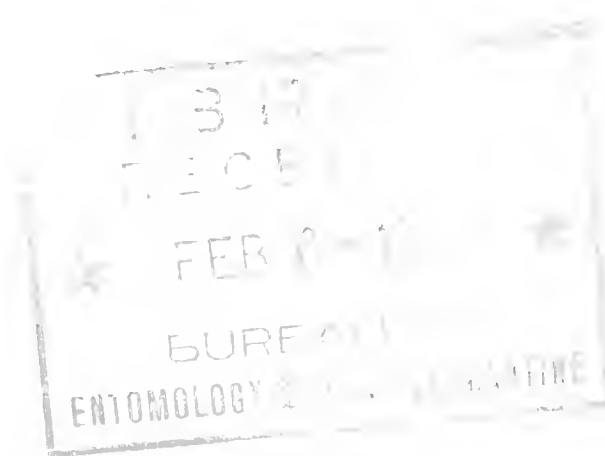
Although the corn earworm attacks many cultivated crops, it is dealt with here only as an enemy of corn. The eggs are laid by a moth, or miller, usually on the corn silks. The eggs hatch in from 2 to 8 days, and the tiny larvae, caterpillars, or "worms," feed downward, following the silks into the ear tip. Serious damage to the ear frequently results from their feeding and from the fermentation or molds which follow. When full-grown, the larva leaves the ear, enters the soil, and becomes a pupa, and from this the moth emerges. About 30 days are required in midsummer for complete development from egg to adult. Pupae produced late in the summer or in the fall may pass the winter in the soil and become moths the following spring or early in the summer. Usually two complete generations are developed annually in the North, but in the South there may be as many as five or more generations.

Control

Injury to field corn can be reduced by growing varieties having long, tight husks, and, in the South, by planting early.

To protect early-market or home-garden sweet corn, inject into the tip of each ear about $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoonful ($\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cubic centimeter) of refined white mineral oil (viscosity 100 to 200 Saybolt) containing 0.2 percent of pyrethrins. If ready-mixed material is not obtainable, use $1\frac{1}{4}$ fluid ounces of oleoresin of pyrethrum (containing 20 percent of pyrethrins) to 1 gallon of the white oil. The injecting should be done *after the silks have wilted* and before they have begun to turn brown. If it is done before the silks have wilted, poorly filled ears may result. Although the mixture can be applied with a pump-type, long-spouted oil can, it can be best applied by using a special oiler. A description (with illustrations) of the special oiler will be sent, without charge, on application to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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